

Notes on Maryland Lepidoptera No. 7: Eight new butterfly records for the state of Maryland

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Our continued study and research on Maryland butterflies has become progressively more difficult due to the massive destruction of the habitats: forest and field alike, and even the vast salt marshes, the last of which had always seemed indestructable. However, our field work eventually either turns up something new or assists in re-evaluating old records.

1. *Papilio cresphontes cresphontes* (Cramer) has been known from Maryland for many years. Although *P. C. cresphontes* is occasional throughout the state, the largest colony exists along the Potomac River valley, especially from Cabin John, Montgomery County, Northwest to Little Orleans, Allegany County. Here the spring brood (May) is indistinguishable from *Papilio cresphontes pennsylvanicus* (Chermock and Chermock). Later on the summer broods are typical *cresphontes*. In such a situation one cannot justifiably call the spring brood true *pennsylvanicus*, but it is noteworthy to record this condition for future resolution.

2. Our good friend Dr. John Mason went collecting with his family April 9, 1968, along the Potomac River. Near Dargan, Washington County, he discovered a small colony of the dark spring form *Celastrina pseudargiolus nigra* (Edwards). Aware the Harry Clench of the Carnegie Museum was working on this species, Mason forwarded some specimens to Clench. He incorporated the material into a paper naming the dark form as a distinct cryptic species — *C. ebenina* (Clench, 1972). We have visited the area in the spring and also collected *ebenina* but very sparingly (one a season). Males are rare, but females are extremely rare. (Only two females have been captured in the area.) The known flight period here is April 9 to April 27th. Dr. Mason feels this butterfly flies every year but it is definitely more common every other year.

3. Our long search for *Strymon acadica* (Edwards) has always met with failure. On July 10, 1972, our friend Phil Kean collected a large fresh female on the campus of University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The hairstreak was busy feeding on the flowers of burdock (*Arcium*) in an open field not far from Willow (*Salix* sp.). The capture establishes a first known Maryland record. Phil kindly donated the specimen to W.A.A.

4. We have suspected the presence of *Strymon caryaevorus* (McD.) in Maryland for many years and believe we have collected it annually in Garrett County since 1950. When Mr. Frank Chermock examined the genitalia of specimens we had collected July 10, 1958, near Grantsville, their identity was confirmed as *S. caryaevorus* and *S. falacer* (Godart).

5. When visiting Dr. John Mason he casually asked us about good collecting areas in Maryland. We suggested that for overall collecting Charles County was an excellent spot, especially around Liverpool Point.

Armed with this information Dr. Mason and his family, all collectors, headed for Liverpool Point on August 23, 1973. They collected many butterflies that day, but never completely identified the catch. We later inspected this collection and were very surprised to find a beautiful fresh female *Hesperia attalus* (Edw.). Here we sent John to our best collecting area which we had thoroughly collected for the past ten years, but evidently we had not worked it enough. John came up with one of the country's rarest butterflies. We have collected the area many times since and have never seen this rare butterfly. Dr. Mason, in his usual kind way, gave us the specimen for our collection.

6. Next to Dr. John Mason's *Hesperia attalus* were four *Lerodea eufala* (Edw.) also from Liverpool Point on August 23, 1973, and also a new species from Maryland which we have been trying to find for years. John gave us two of the specimens.

7. We recently described a new subspecies of *Poanes massasoit* (Scud.) from deep Eastern Shore territory of Maryland (Andersen and Simmons 1976). We named the butterfly after our dear departed friend, Franklin Chermock, who was not only a great lepidopterist but a rare kind gentleman.

Although the description of *Poanes massasoit chermocki* (Andersen and Simmons) was published, it is included herein to formally add the butterfly to the list of Maryland butterflies.

8. Austin Clark (1932) reported and described a new subspecies of *Poanes massasoit* from Beltsville, Maryland - *P. massasoit hughii* (Clark). The Beltsville area lies in the Fall Line and on the Coastal plain.

When Clark published his "Butterflies of the District of Columbia" in 1932, he incorporated the Beltsville colony reporting the butterfly as *P. massasoit massasoit*. However, he later described this colony as *P. massasoit hughii*. Therefore, *P. massasoit massasoit* has not been published as an indigenous butterfly for Maryland.

For many years we have been collecting *P. massasoit massasoit* from the more northern parts of Maryland, including Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties. A possible factor of subspeciation may lie in the clines from Coastal Plain and Fall Line to the Piedmont areas.

The summarized data follow:

| Species | Date | Locality |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Papilio c. pennsylvanicus</i> | V-15-58 | Little Orleans, Allegany Co., Md. |
| 2. <i>Celastrina ebenina</i> | IV-27-75 | Dargan, Washington Co., Md. |
| 3. <i>Strymon acadica</i> | VII-10-72 | Univ. of Md. Campus, Balto. Co., Md. |
| 4. <i>Strymon caryaevorus</i> | VII-10-58 | Grantsville, Garrett Co., Md. |
| 5. <i>Hesperia attalus</i> | VIII-23-73 | Liverpool Point, Charles Co., Md. |
| 6. <i>Lerodea eufala</i> | VIII-23-73 | Liverpool Point, Charles Co., Md. |
| 7. <i>Poanes m. chermockii</i> | VII-12-62 | New Bridge, Dorchester Co., Md. |
| 8. <i>Poanes m. massasoit</i> | VII-15-54 | Eklo, Balto. Co., Md. |

Notes on Maryland Lepidoptera No. 8:

Erora laeta (Edw.)

Almost all members of the select *Erora laeta* club have agreed on one axiom for finding this rarest of species. "It occurs in the most unlikely place when least expected."

We have been researching the butterflies of Maryland for many years. A list is maintained of at least twenty probable species that we have been constantly trying to discover somewhere in Maryland. One of our prime targets has always been *E. laeta*, the rarest butterfly in the Eastern U.S. Every reported capture of *E. laeta* has been followed very carefully and every detail scrutinized with the hope of finding